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## FOREST OVERSIGHT AND RESOURCE STRENGTHENING

Amazonian forests represent over 90% of Peru's forest cover. These forests provide ecosystem services including biodiversity conservation, climate regulation and water provision. They are also critical to the economic and social well-being of Peru. Despite their critical role, forests are being lost at increasing rates due to illegal logging.

To reverse this trend, Peru needs effective forest governance institutions, regulations and a competitive forest sector. The Forest Oversight and Resource Strengthening (FOREST) activity aims to promote sustainable forest management by strengthening the principles of transparency, accountability and stakeholder participation.

### HOW DOES THE ACTIVITY WORK?

The FOREST program focuses on strengthening national and regional government institutions in the forest sector in Peru, and effective implementation of Peru's new forestry framework. Hence, FOREST leverages the expertise of the U.S. Forest Service to provide technical assistance in natural resource management, capacity building for land management agencies, and public administration. In addition, the FOREST program supports Peru in meeting its obligations included in the U.S.-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement (also known as U.S.-Peru Free Trade Agreement). Finally, FOREST works with national and regional forest sector institutions to secure needed human and financial resources to ensure a competitive, sustainable and legal forest sector.

## RESULTS ACHIEVED

- Establishment of four inter-institutional coordination groups that have resulted in Peru's first National Fire Prevention Plan, National Forest and Wildlife Research Plan and an increase in budget for the Amazonian regions.
- FOREST was instrumental in developing a 4-year strategic plan for Peru's Forest and Wildlife Service (SERFOR) and carrying out extensive training programs for government personnel. In addition, over 300 stakeholders have been trained on the forestry and wildlife regulations. And SERFOR now has an online learning training platform that has been used to train over 1000 government personnel and stakeholders.
- Peru's Forest and Wildlife Oversight Agency (OSINFOR) now has a 4-year strategic plan, improved information systems, training programs and a monitoring unit to track strategic priorities.
- Peru's Forest and Wildlife Service can confidently certify high-quality forest regents for improved forest concession management through the forest and wildlife regents certification course and a continuing education program.
- Three online forest transparency portals and a national statistical platform have been established that contain over 8000 digitized documents and over 250,000 data records.
- Two Peruvian universities, the National Agrarian University La Molina and National University of the Peruvian Amazon, have strengthened forestry programs and research agendas through the development of a National Forest and Wildlife Research Plan, training on scientific research methods and an alliance with Oregon State University's School of Forestry.
- Peruvian wildland fire management capacity strengthened through a standardized curriculum, ongoing training on wildland fire response, and collaborative planning across all forest sector institutions.
- Amazonian regional governments received in 2019 a 100% budget increase and effectively utilized the funds to improve oversight and management of forest resources.

## PROJECT INFORMATION

**IMPLEMENTER:** United States Forest Service

**PROGRAM DURATION:** September 28, 2017 to September 27, 2022

**USAID FUNDING:** \$16,935,000

**LOCATION:** Lima, Loreto, Madre de Dios and Ucayali regions

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